

Amendments to the Claims

1-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently amended) In a network of the type comprising an access link for communicatively coupling user terminals with an access node, wherein the access node provides connectivity with a plurality of destinations including packet-terminated destinations and circuit-terminated destinations, and wherein communications from user terminals to a packet-terminated destination, when carried over the access link, are carried over the access link at a first service level, and communications from user terminals to a circuit-terminated destination, when carried over the access link, are carried over the access link at a second service level different than the first service level, ~~wherein the first service level comprises a first data rate for communication over the access link, and the second service level comprises a second data rate for communication over the access link, the first data rate being higher than the second data rate~~, a method comprising:

(a) receiving a user request to establish a communication session from a user terminal to a specified circuit-terminated destination; and

(b) in response to the user request, (i) setting up a first session from the user terminal to an intermediate packet-terminated destination via a communication path including the access link, so that the first session is carried over the access link at the first service level, (ii) setting up a second session from the intermediate packet-terminated destination to the specified circuit-terminated destination, and (iii) bridging the first session with the second session to produce an end-to-end session from the user terminal to the specified destination,

wherein the first service level comprises a first data rate for communication over the access link, and the second service level comprises a second data rate for communication over the access link, the first data rate being higher than the second data rate.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein the access link comprises an air interface.

31. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein the user terminal comprises a mobile station and the access node comprises a base station.

32. (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein the user terminal further comprises a host device linked with the mobile station.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein the user request to establish a communication session from a user terminal to the specified circuit-terminated destination comprises a request to establish a dial-up data connection from the user terminal to a telephone number of the specified circuit-terminated destination.

35. (Original) The method of claim 34, further comprising receiving the user request at the user terminal.

36. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein setting up the first session from the user-terminal to the intermediate packet-terminated destination comprises: sending an origination message from the user terminal to the access node.

37. (Original) The method of claim 36, further comprising: sending the telephone number of the specified circuit-terminated destination from the user terminal to the access node; and sending the telephone number of the specified circuit-terminated destination from the access node to the intermediate packet-terminated destination.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein setting up the second session from the intermediate packet-terminated destination to the specified circuit-terminated destination comprises:

the intermediate packet-terminated destination placing a dial-up call to the telephone number.

39. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein the user request defines user-account information, the method further comprising: sending the user-account information from the user terminal to the access node; sending the user-account information from the access-node to the intermediate packet-terminated destination; and sending the user-account information from the intermediate packet-terminated destination to the specified circuit-terminated destination.

40. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein the user account information comprises a username and a password.

41-46. (Cancelled)

47. (Previously presented) A system comprising a user terminal including:
a first processor;
a first data storage mechanism;
a first communication interface for communicating over an air interface;
a first user-input means for receiving a user request to establish a dial-up data session with a specified circuit-terminated destination;
a first set of instructions stored in the first data storage mechanism and executable by the first processor, in response to the user request, (i) to send a session-setup message via the air interface requesting establishment of a packet-data session and (ii) once the packet-data session is established, to send packets that include dial-up data as payload and that include a predetermined identifier associated with a dial-up data session;
a translation node including (a) a second processor, (b) a second data storage mechanism, (c) a second communication interface for receiving packet-data, the second communication interface receiving the packets and providing the packets to the second processor, (d) a third communication interface for sending circuit-data, and (e) a second set of instructions stored in the second data storage mechanism and executable by the second processor (i) to translate the packets into outgoing circuit-data and (ii) to provide the outgoing circuit-data to the third

communication interface for transmission of the outgoing circuit-data to the specified circuit-terminated destination; and

an entity including (a) a third processor, (b) a third data storage mechanism, (c) a fourth communication interface for communicating packet-data, the fourth communication interface receiving the packets and providing the packets to the third processor, and (d) a third set of instructions stored in the third data storage medium and executable by the third processor, for each packet, to detect the predetermined identifier in the packet and to responsively send the packet to the translation node.

48-49. (Cancelled)

50. (Previously presented) The system of claim 47, wherein the entity is a PDSN.

51-53. (Cancelled)

54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein setting up the first session from the user-terminal to the intermediate packet-terminated destination comprises setting up the first session over an air interface.

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54, wherein setting up the first session from the user-terminal to the intermediate packet-terminated destination comprises the

user terminal sending an origination message over the air interface to a radio access system, the origination message including a packet-data service code.

56. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54, wherein setting up the first session from the user-terminal to the intermediate packet-terminated destination comprises:

setting up a PPP session between (i) the user terminal and (ii) an entity that is arranged to forward packets of the session to the intermediate packet-terminated destination.

57. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54, wherein each of a plurality of packets sent from the user terminal to the intermediate packet-terminated destination in the first session comprises an identifier, and wherein setting up the first session from the user terminal to the intermediate packet-terminated destination comprises:

setting up a PPP session between (i) the user terminal and (ii) an entity that is arranged to forward each packet to the intermediate packet-terminated destination in response to a determination that the packet includes the identifier.

58. (Previously presented) The method of claim 57, further comprising:
programming the entity to forward to the intermediate packet-terminated destination each packet that includes the identifier.

59. (Previously presented) The method of claim 57, wherein the identifier comprises a predetermined network address.

60. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, further comprising:
performing step (b) transparently to the user.

61. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, further comprising:
using a network access server as the intermediate packet-terminated destination.